

While I support that part of NPRM 04-140 that seeks expansion of amateur radiotelephone privileges on the high frequency (HF) bands I feel petitioner ARRL's request that phone privileges on 75 meters be increased by a mere 25 kHz is inadequate.

The current exclusion of phone from substantial segments of the HF bands is no longer working to the benefit of the American amateur radio community. One can, for example, tune across that part of 80/75 meters reserved for CW most evenings and find little activity. But as soon as one arrives at the part of the band where phone operation is permitted, QSOs are packed together. This sort of overcrowding leads to disputes that would be lessened, if not eliminated, by opening up a greater portion of the band that is presently off limits to phone. I agree with the suggestion by others that phone operation on 75 meters be permitted between 3600 and 4000 kHz.

The underutilization of large portions of some amateur bands while other parts of those same bands are overcrowded begs for action. I would, in fact, prefer to see the elimination of mode or bandwidth based operating restrictions on the HF bands, with the exception of the present 60 and 30 meter bands where such limitations make sense based on the limited space available. I ask that the Commission consider increasing to a substantial degree the frequencies in which phone operation is permitted.